

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-4 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add new claims 5-8 as follows.

LISTING OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claims 1-4. (Canceled)

5. (New) A locking assembly for an umbrella comprising:

- a) a multi-sectional shaft;
- b) a notch located on a top of the multi-sectional shaft and having an extension section protruding downwardly and having a length surrounding an exterior of the multi-sectional shaft;
- c) a plurality of ribs pivotally connected to an outer periphery of the notch and movable between open and closed positions, the plurality of ribs supporting a cover of the umbrella;
- d) a protrusion section having:
 - i) a first end connected to the extension section;
 - ii) two opposing sides spaced apart from the extension section by gaps formed there between; and
 - iii) a supporting plane located on a second end thereof;
- e) a runner slidably located on the extension section; and
- f) a plurality of stretchers, one of the plurality of stretchers is connected between the runner and each of plurality of ribs,

wherein, when the ribs are located in the open position, the runner is located between the notch and the protrusion section, the plurality of stretchers supporting the plurality of ribs, the supporting plane engaging a lower section of the runner and holding the runner in a predetermined position, and, when the ribs are located in the closed position, the runner is located below the protrusion section, the plurality of stretchers supporting the plurality of ribs, the supporting plane holding the runner in a predetermined position.

6. (New) The locking assembly according to claim 5, wherein the protrusion section and the extension section are integrally formed.

7. (New) The locking assembly according to claim 5, wherein the protrusion section is made as a fastening button.

8. (New) The locking assembly according to claim 5, wherein the notch has a slot and the extension section has a longitudinal protrusion inserted into the notch, when the ribs are located in the open position.